

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI
OXFORD DIVISION**

JAMES EARNEST WATTS

PETITIONER

v.

No. 3:20-CV-00139-NBB-JMV

JESSIE J. WILLIAMS

RESPONDENT(S)

ORDER DIRECTING STATE TO RESPOND

James Earnest Williams has filed a petition for relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. It is

ORDERED:

1. That no later than February 23, 2021, respondent, through Lynn Fitch, Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, file an answer to this action, along with full and complete transcripts of all proceedings in the state courts of Mississippi arising from the charge of capital murder against the petitioner in the Circuit Court of Marion County, Mississippi (to the extent such are relevant to the State's response).
2. That within 14 days of service upon him of a copy of respondent's answer, petitioner may file his traverse or reply to the allegations contained in such answer.
3. The clerk of this court will serve by email (Return Receipt, High Importance) a copy of the petition, this order, acknowledgment of service of process form, and any other initial filings, upon Lynn Fitch, Attorney General of the State of Mississippi, or her lawful successor, to Assistant Attorneys General Jerrolyn Owens and Bridgette Grant. The respondent must electronically file the completed acknowledgment of service of process form upon receipt.

Petitioner is warned that failure to keep this court informed of his current address could lead to dismissal of his lawsuit.

SO ORDERED, this, the 10th day of December, 2020.

/s/ Jane M. Virden
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE